



Richmond Area Rail Improvement Project

High speed passenger rail service between Richmond, Hampton Roads and Washington, DC will provide Virginians with better transportation choices in the highly congested I-95 and I-64 corridors. The Tier I federal environmental analysis of high speed rail in the I-95 corridor identified two possible routes for service between Main St. Station and Doswell, Virginia. A preferred route must be identified in order to continue through the federal planning process.

DRPT is conducting an Environmental Assessment to establish the preferred route. The two routes under study are referred to as the Eastern Route and the Western Route as follows:

	Eastern	Western
Location	Follows Buckingham Branch Railroad tracks from Main St. Station to Doswell along a route east of I-95	Follows CSX tracks along I-95 from Main St. Station to the Staples Mill and Ashland train stations
Items Under Evaluation	Higher speed passenger rail service and construction of a passenger rail station along the Buckingham Branch rail route between Main St. Station and Doswell	Higher speed passenger rail service for the existing Staples Mill and Ashland stations along the CSX rail line, in addition to other potential locations for stations along the route

Other Project Elements:

- Analysis of rail infrastructure improvements between Richmond and Newport News along the I-64 corridor, including station improvements
- Analysis of rail infrastructure improvements between Doswell and Fredericksburg along the I-95 corridor
- Analysis of rail infrastructure improvements south of Richmond between Main St. Station and Centralia
- Analysis of transit-oriented development opportunities at stations between Main St. Station and Doswell

Project Schedule:

- The current study portion of the project began in February 2008 and is scheduled for completion in early 2009.
- The results of the route analysis will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration, which will issue a Record of Decision on the preferred route. This decision will enable DRPT to continue through the federal planning process for high speed rail.

After the preferred route is selected, additional environmental and engineering work will be necessary to continue advancing the project through the federal planning process.

DRPT is accepting public comments on this project. Comments may be sent by mail, fax or email. Send mail to Public Information Office, 1313 E. Main St, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219. Send email to drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov or send a fax to 804-225-3752.

For more information, visit the project Web page at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/projects/richmondarearailimprovements.aspx>.

Project Map

